

To: Webster, Sarah[swebster@blm.gov]
From: Maciel, Martha
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Subject: Re: DRAFT: BLM-CA in the News, May 30
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Here are a few additions:

(60 Minutes) <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/wildfires-on-the-rise-due-to-drought-and-climate-change/>

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-ln-kern-river-dead-20170529-htmlstory.html>

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On Tue, May 30, 2017 at 12:05 PM, Webster, Sarah <swebster@blm.gov> wrote:

CALIFORNIA

[Gate fire sparks controversy over popular shooting spot](#)

The San Diego Union-Tribune, May 27

...A dozen fires have started in the Marron Valley and Sycamore Canyon areas between 2011 and 2015, nine of them caused by shooters, according to BLM spokeswoman Samantha Storms. Each one costs tens of thousands of dollars to extinguish. Cal Fire records show three fires caused by shooting in the area in 2012 and 2013 racked up nearly \$200,000 in costs.

[Supervisor Dianne Jacob Calls for Shooting Ban in Wake of Gate Fire](#)

7 San Diego, May 24

San Diego County Supervisor Dianne Jacob called for a shooting ban on federal land Wednesday in the area where the May 20 Gate Fire was sparked by gunfire, spreading flames over more than 2,000 acres. "The issue has taken on even greater

urgency following a major wildfire this past weekend," wrote Jacob to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Trump's latest Interior Department pick is bursting with conflicts of interest and alternative facts

LA Times, editorial, May 25

...And then comes a nominee like David Bernhardt, Trump's pick for deputy secretary of the Interior...He also had a major role in drafting legislation to undermine those protections. His firm is a top lobbyist for Cadiz Inc., which wants to pump Mojave Desert groundwater and send it by aqueduct to Southern California cities.

Fire burning in Big Morongo Canyon

Hi-Desert Star, May 29

A fire burning in a remote area of Big Morongo Canyon covered 16 acres by Monday afternoon. The fire, which is in the new Sand to Snow National Monument, was reported around 11:30 p.m. Sunday. At its peak shortly after dawn Monday, 120 firefighters were working on the line, Cal Fire Battalion Chief Tony Jones said.

Valley Voice: Changing market is molding 'green' power

The Desert Sun, opinion piece, May 29

The May 8 article "Solar and wind are booming – just not in the California desert" suggests that limited availability of developable land is slowing growth of renewable energy in California. This is not the case. Work by the Nature Conservancy and others shows that California's renewable energy goals can be met in an economically viable manner without developing environmentally sensitive lands...Work products such as the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) will help them do that, in the most environmentally responsible manner. In fact, there are 10 solar projects currently moving forward within the framework of the DRECP, representing more than 2,900 MW of supply.

BLM imposes fire restrictions in California Desert District

Mohave Daily News, May 29

The federal Bureau of Land Management has imposed Stage III fire restrictions on public lands they control in the California Desert District: essentially from the Pacific coast around Thousand Oaks to the Nevada border above Death Valley and south to the Mexican border, except for a very narrow strip along the Colorado River from Bullhead City to Yuma.

BLM issues restrictions amid wildfire dangers

Bakersfield Now, May 25

Restrictions were announced Thursday in some Kern County areas because of increasing wildfire dangers. The Bureau of Land Management Bakersfield Field Office said the restrictions apply to federal public lands in Kern, Tulare, Fresno, Kings, Madera, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura counties.

BLM issues new fire restrictions for San Diego

CBS 8 San Diego, May 27, 28

... The Bureau of Land Management Friday issued a stage three fire restriction, banning open fires and shooting. That action came days after County Supervisor Dianne Jacob wrote the agency asking for additional restrictions.

Speak truth to Trump: Hands off our wildflowers and Giant Sequoias

The Fresno Bee, opinion piece, May 25

We've got wonderful national monuments that make for great day trips from anywhere in the Valley. Carrizo Plain in eastern San Luis Obispo County is like a small version of the pre-settlement San Joaquin Valley. This home of the giant kangaroo rat, Tule elk and pronghorn antelope has had a massive bloom of wildflowers in this wet year. Giant Sequoia National Monument is home to half of all existing Giant Sequoia redwood groves. These monuments were established under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to sustain all life forms, natural physical resources, historic structures and relics, and archaeological remains.

NATIONAL

Trump's BLM Budget Proposal Signals An 'American Energy Renaissance'

The Daily Caller, May 25

President Donald Trump's budget proposal for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) aims to reign in the agency while refocusing its priorities on energy production. Trump's budget, released Tuesday, allocates \$1.1 billion total in federal funds to BLM, a cut of \$160 million from last year. In large part, the cuts are made to functions of the agency related to protection of federal land and conservation of resources, Lori Sanders told The Daily Caller News Foundation. Sanders is the vice president of federal affairs for the R Street Institute, a free-market think tank.

Wild horses could be sold for slaughter or euthanized under Trump budget

The Washington Post, May 26

The Bureau of Land Management spends about \$50 million a year to house and feed more than 46,000 wild horses and burros in corrals. Another 73,000 of the animals

roam freely across the western states, producing foals and grazing on public lands that conservationists and federal officials say are quickly deteriorating. It's an escalating equine-population problem, and the fiscal 2018 budget President Trump proposed this week suggests a solution: using "humane euthanasia and unrestricted sale of certain excess animals."

Trump's bid to open U.S. monuments to development draws calls for protection

Reuters, May 26

The Trump administration's call for an opening of U.S. national monuments to economic development has drawn 107,00 comments from the public, with many expressing hope that sites like Utah's Bears Ears can maintain their protected status. President Donald Trump last month ordered the Interior Department to review some 27 national monuments created since 1996, with an eye to rescinding or shrinking the size of some of them to increase development opportunities.

Trump's bid for public input on national monuments may be a sham

Business Insider, May 23

In late April, field biologist Stanley Smith was catching up on emails at his desk in the College of Sciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, when he noticed a shocking note. It came from the Bureau of Land Management, an agency within the Department of the Interior, and informed Smith that the public lands advisory council in southern Nevada that he's served on for years was suspended. Across the country, other regional advisors got similar notices... The review would cover patches of wilderness that received the distinction after 1996, like Mojave Trails in California and Bears Ears in Utah, and would assess whether public opinion was adequately taken into account prior to elevating their status.

Democratic leaders ask Zinke to go easy on national monuments

FederalNewsRadio.com, May 26

In today's Federal Newscast, the minority leaders and whips of both chambers of Congress asked Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to not eliminate any national monuments. The minority leaders and whips of both chambers sent a letter to Zinke, reminding him of the cultural and historical significance of national monuments, which they say are under threat.

House Dems warn Zinke against altering sites

GREENWIRE, May 25

House Natural Resources ranking member Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) today cautioned Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke that only Congress has the authority to reduce the boundaries or revoke the status of national monuments, and asserted that any

recommendations to President Trump to do so would be a "misuse of your time and the public's money." Trump issued an executive order in late April mandating the Interior Department to review the status of dozens of monuments created since 1996, largely at the behest of critics of sites including Utah's Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. See *PDF for full story*.

[BLM budget details reveal cuts to conservation positions](#)

GREENWIRE, May 25

The Bureau of Land Management's fiscal 2018 budget proposes to reassign potentially dozens of agency staff working on greater sage grouse and sagebrush conservation and restoration efforts into other agency programs. The so-called budget justification for BLM's proposed \$1.1 billion budget released today, more than two days after President Trump unveiled his fiscal 2018 budget request proposes cutting \$11.5 million from the "Sagebrush Conservation Implementation Strategy." Part of that cut will mean eliminating 59 full-time-equivalent positions from BLM's Wildlife Management program, which is responsible for implementing the federal greater sage grouse conservation plans finalized in September 2015. Full-time-equivalent positions do not equate to actual employees, and sometimes denote unfilled positions. See *PDF for full story*.

[7 former Hill aides among 19 staffers joining Zinke's team](#)

GREENWIRE, May 30

The Interior Department announced late Friday that more than a dozen temporary political appointees and five other officials have joined the Trump administration. Among the 19 permanent appointees are seven veterans of Capitol Hill, where Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke served as a Montana congressman prior. There are also several officials who worked in previous Republican administrations or on the Trump campaign. See *PDF for full story*.

[Wildlife, renewables take back seat to oil and gas in budget](#)

ENERGYWIRE, May 30

In southwest Wyoming, a plan to revise greater sage grouse management on a 3.5-million-acre mineral estate could be in jeopardy under the Interior Department's proposed fiscal 2018 budget. But with the domestic energy business in a natural pause prompted by low oil and gas prices, this is exactly the time for the federal government to focus on investing in critical wildlife habitats and sustainable job creation, some Western conservationists say. "Now is the time to set up wildlife habitat for success," said Chris Merrill, associate director of the Wyoming Outdoor Council. "Now is the time to get the policy framework right." See *PDF for full story*.

[Retrial in Bunkerville standoff case postponed until July](#)

Las Vegas-Review Journal, May 25

The retrial in the first Bunkerville standoff case is scheduled to open with jury selection July 10. A mistrial was declared in the case in April, after jurors deadlocked on 50 of the 60 counts against six defendants. Federal prosecutors decided this month to retry four of the men, who are accused of providing the firepower in a mass assault against federal agents. The agents were in Bunkerville to seize rancher Cliven Bundy's cattle after decades of unpaid grazing fees.

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